PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Akira HAMADA et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **December 3, 2001**

For: **GAS DIFFUSION LAYER FOR FUEL CELL AND MANUFACTURING METHOD OF THE SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 3, 2001

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Amended) The gas diffusion layer for fuel cell of claim 2 or 3, wherein the thickness of the second gas diffusion layer is smaller than that of said gas diffusion layer.

6. (Amended) The gas diffusion layer for fuel cell of claim 2 or 3, wherein the electrically conductive powder used for said gas diffusion layer and the second gas diffusion layer is carbon powder, and a specific surface area of the carbon powder used for said gas diffusion layer is smaller than the specific surface are of the carbon powder used for the second gas diffusion layer.

REMARKS

The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) The gas diffusion layer for fuel cell of ~~any of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2 or 3, wherein the thickness of the second gas diffusion layer is smaller than that of said gas diffusion layer.

6. (Amended) The gas diffusion layer for fuel cell of ~~any of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2 or 3, wherein the electrically conductive powder used for said gas diffusion layer and the second gas diffusion layer is carbon powder, and a specific surface area of the carbon powder used for said gas diffusion layer is smaller than the specific surface are of the carbon powder used for the second gas diffusion layer.